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THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OTHER RECORDS
FOR 1945.

S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DURHAM
G. BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS, ETC.

1946,

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (PART TIME) :

S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

R. CAILE, M.B., B.S.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR :

ALBERT E. JONES, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Died 8th February, 1946).

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :

LESLIE OATES, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

MATRON OF ISOLATION HOSPITAL :

MISS F. M. WEDDLE, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., Housekeeping Certificate.

CLERICAL STAFF :

MRS. J. WILBY, Clerk.

MISS H. CONWAY, Shorthand Typist (commenced 1st October, 1945).

RODENT OFFICER :

MR. A. T. SMITH. (Commenced 4th July, 1945. (Temporary Appointment).

DURHAM,

October, 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my sixteenth annual report, being that for the year 1945.

I have little comment to make on the vital statistics which I consider quite satisfactory.

The death rate is the lowest for ten years.

It will be noted that Cardio-vascular disease accounted for 55 deaths, Cancer for 27 and Tuberculosis for 13, together 95, out of a total of 197.

The incidence of infectious disease was low and the types generally mild.

The Infant Mortality is quite encouraging when we consider the serious lack of houses and other domestic amenities.

A notable and pleasant incident to report is that the year under review saw preparations in hand for a comprehensive building programme providing for the re-housing of those families living under unsatisfactory conditions.

The Council is doing all in its power to provide these houses as quickly as possible, but it is obvious that some considerable time must elapse before all needs are satisfied, as, when building ceased in 1939, the re-housing of Slum Clearance and overcrowded tenants was far from completed, and this position has been greatly aggravated by the number of young couples who have married during the War years and have not been able to find any other accommodation than with their relatives or friends.

As the new building programme develops the opportunity will arise for the clearing up and planning of parts of the old City. Many old and derelict properties will become vacant as tenants are moved to the new estates, and prompt demolition will remove

many buildings which are, at present, an offence to the eye and a danger to the health of the occupants, and it is to be hoped that very careful consideration will be given to the future use of such cleared sites.

To the Members of the Committee I offer my thanks for their confidence and continued interest, and to the Officials of the Council for their generous co-operation. The work of the Sanitary Inspectors and office staff has been most praiseworthy.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. KNIBB YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OTHER RECORDS

for 1945.

 STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres ... 4,029.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1944 :—16,820

Do. do. 1945 :—17,400

Number of inhabited houses end of 1944 :—4,850.

Do. 1945 :—4,849.

Rateable value :—(1944), £121,285. (1945), £121,241.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate :—(1944) £479 5s. 1d.

(1945) £478 17s. 6d.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The estimated number of unemployed men in the City at the end of 1945 was 241, as compared with 44 at the end of 1944.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

BIRTHS.

Live Births :—	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	253	122	131	Birth-rate (per 1,000 population) 15·46.
Illegitimate	16	6	10	

Stillbirths :—

Legitimate	6	2	4	Rate per 1,000 total births 25·36.
Illegitimate	1	1	0	

DEATHS.

197	89	108	Death-rate per 1,000 population) 11·32.
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DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES. ... 1.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants, per 1,000 live births	55
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate births	59
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate births	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	27
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
197	14	1	2	4	7	16	50	103

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANT MORTALITY
OVER TEN YEARS.

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Birth Rate	14·0	14·9	14·7	15·3	14·1	12·5	12·9	16·8	17·9	15·5
Death Rate	12·0	12·9	11·7	10·8	14·8	12·0	13·2	14·5	14·3	11·3
Infant Mortality	92	50	28	37	44	59	60	50	66	55

TABLE COMPARING THE BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE
AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1945
OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., WITH THAT FOR DURHAM
CITY.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	16·1	0·46	11·4	5·6	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	19·1	0·58	13·5	7·8	54
148 Smaller Towns, (Esti- mated Resident Popu- lations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	19·2	0·53	12·3	4·5	43
London	15·7	0·40	13·8	7·6	53
Administrative County of Durham	18·9	0·70	12·0	0·1	54
Durham City	15·5	0·40	11·3	—	55

CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1945.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Total.	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES.....	197	89	108
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	10	7	3
Other Tuberculosis Diseases.....	3	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases.....	2	1	1
Influenza	2	1	1
Measles.....	—	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer—Malignant Diseases.....	27	10	17
Diabetes	4	2	2
Intracranial vascular lesions.....	11	5	6
Heart Disease.....	44	21	23
Other Circulatory Diseases.....	3	1	2
Bronchitis.....	7	5	2
Pneumonia	9	3	6
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	1	1	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	2	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	1	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases.....	1	—	1
Nephritis	5	1	4
Puerperal Sepsis.....	1	—	1
Other Maternal Causes.....	—	—	—
Premature Birth.....	3	2	1
Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc.	7	3	4
Suicide	1	1	—
Road Traffic Accidents	2	1	1
Other Violent Causes	7	4	3
All Other Causes.....	43	15	28

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	34	34	—
Diphtheria	15	15	1
Enteric Fever.....	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1	—	1
Pneumonia	4	—	9
Erysipelas.....	3	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.....	20	—	—
Measles	195	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF SCARLET FEVER AND
DIPHTHERIA.

Ages ...	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever	—	2	1	1	2	14	10	3	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	1	1	1	2	4	4	2	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
15 — 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
25 — 35	3	2	—	1	1	1	—	—
35 — 45	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and Upwards	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
TOTALS	9	6	2	1	5	3	1	—

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR, 1945.

I.—PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools—			
Foul Conditions	20	—	20
Structural Defects	103	1	92
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Lodging-houses	2	1	1
Dairies and Milkshops	—	—	—
Cowsneds	—	—	—
Bake houses	1	—	1
Slaughter-houses	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	2	—	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	8	—	8
Waterclosets	48	—	45
Defective Yard Paving	5	—	4
House Drainage—			
Defective Traps	8	—	7
No Disconnection from Sewers	3	—	3
Other Faults	36	1	36
Water Supply	15	—	15
Pigsties	1	—	1
Animals Improperly Kept	2	—	2
Offensive Trades	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	25	—	21
Lack of proper Dust Bins	37	—	35
Fishfriers	3	—	3
Factories	1	—	1
Rat Infestation	2	—	2
TOTALS	322	3	298

II.—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	84
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	52
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	5
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things	nil
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things	nil

III.—GENERAL.

Number of New Houses erected during year	nil
Number of such Houses occupied during year	nil
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	nil
Ashpit-privies converted into Water-closets	nil
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets	1
Total number of Water-closets in District	5531
Total number of Ash-closets in District	59
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District	26

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)...	683
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose... ..	1062
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose... ..	nil
3.		Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	1
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of 3 above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	140

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of dwelling-houses made fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority or their Officers...	136
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners... ..	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	1

B.—Proceedings under sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	nil
(2)	Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners... ..	nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
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INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year 683 inspections were made of properties in the District. It was found necessary to serve 152 informal notices for the remedying of various public health nuisances and the majority of such notices received the prompt attention of the owners or occupiers of the properties concerned.

In 3 cases of non-compliance the Health Committee instructed that statutory notices be served and in one of these cases the Council did the necessary work in default and charged the costs to the owner.

379 visits were made with the object of seeing that notices were complied with.

RE-HOUSING OF SLUM CLEARANCE TENANTS AND ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING.

8 houses on the Sherburn Road Estate became vacant during the year and were re-occupied by transferring 4 families from Clearance Areas and 4 families who had been living in seriously overcrowded conditions.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

63 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases. Disinfection was carried out at 57 premises where bedding and 00 articles of clothing etc. were also treated.

VERMIN DISINFESTATION.

24 premises of which 6 were Council Houses were disinfested. Some badly infested articles of furniture and bedding were, with the owners consent, destroyed by burning at the Council's incinerator.

RODENT CONTROL.

Consequent upon the delegation to the City Council of the powers and duties of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, the work of rodent control in the City Area became the responsibility of the Corporation.

The work involved necessitated the engagement of a Rodent Officer who commenced his duties in August, 1945.

The following is a summary of the work carried out in connection with the destruction of rats and mice and is for the period 6th August to 31st December.

	Dwelling Houses.	Business Premises.	Total.
Number of premises visited ...	94	53	147
Number of visits made ...	369	266	635
Number of prebaits laid ...	454	427	881
Number of poison baits laid	112	212	324
Number of post-baits laid ...	232	345	577
Estimated number of rats killed	240	564	804
Estimated number of mice killed	—	30	30

In addition to the above, test baiting of selected portions of the sewerage system was carried out with a view to obtaining information required by the City Surveyor in his preparation of estimates for the treatment of the whole of the sewers in the City Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

Durham City's water supply apart from a few isolated properties is a mains supply provided by the Durham County Water Board. The water is drawn from moorland sources and is treated with lime to prevent any tendency to plumbo-solvent action and analysts' reports show that no metal is present at the tap. All water is chlorinated prior to being put into service.

The water has proved satisfactory as regards quantity and samples periodically submitted by the Board to the County Analyst for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination show the quality also to be satisfactory. All water is supplied direct to the houses in the City from the Board's water mains.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The following information has been supplied by the City Engineer whose Department is responsible for public cleansing.
STREET CLEANSING.

This service is carried out in an orderly and efficient manner,
REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected from private houses once per week and twice weekly in the case of Hotels and Restaurants.

124 Tons of waste materials were salvaged during the year ended June, 1946.

Some 9,500 Tons of refuse were collected during the year and disposed of by means of tipping at Shincliffe Tip, which is situated about 1 mile distant from any built up area.

RIVER WEAR—POLLUTION.

A breach in the Prebends Bridge Weir gave the Department an opportunity of ascertaining as to whether any drains were discharging directly into the River.

A thorough inspection revealed that in two cases drains were discharging sewage into the River and subsequent action resulted in these drains being connected to the sewerage system.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

Having received adverse reports as to the conditions obtaining at the Lodging House, Framwellgate, and having also taken into consideration the fact that the property concerned was in a very dilapidated condition, the Council took action resulting in the closing of these premises.

SURVEY OF HOUSING NEEDS.

In accordance with the Council's instructions a survey of the City was carried out during the year under review with the object of ascertaining the extent of overcrowding, the number of families living as sub-tenants or in properties included in Clearance Areas, etc., and the number of houses required to re-house such families.

1,189 visits were made in connection with the survey and a full report submitted to the Council. (This report was included as an appendix in the Annual Report for 1944).

BILLETING.

In January 1945 a total of 125 persons were billeted within the City area but of this number there was a steady "return home" until on the 25th June a total of 50 persons returned to London under the official Government Scheme for the return of evacuees. At the end of the year only 14 evacuees remained in the City.

A total of 2,083 visits were made by the staff in connection with billeting during the year.

DRAINAGE.

The following particulars relate to drainage work carried out during the year :

New drainage systems laid	...	...	...	...	4
Drainage systems reconstructed	...	...	...	...	16
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	32
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	14
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	...	4
Ventilation provided to drains	...	...	...	...	8
New gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	18
Other drainage defects remedied	...	...	...	...	6
Smoke tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	15
Water tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	22

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints have been made arising from excessive smoke issue from factory chimneys and no smoke observations were taken.

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP
ACT, 1901, AND THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prose- cuted.
Factories with mechanical power	14	1	—
Factories without mechanical power	11	1	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construc- tion but not including out- workers' premises) ..	—	—	—
Total	25	2	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	—	—
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation ...	1	1
Other offences	1	1
Total	2	2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 12 Cowkeepers and 21 Dairies and Purveyors of Milk registered in the district. In addition, 31 dealers are registered for the sale of bottled milk only. Registered premises have been visited during the year in order to ensure that the provisions of the Milk, and Dairies Order have been complied with.

SLAUGHTERING OF ANIMALS.

There are 6 licensed slaughter houses in the City but these are not in use as all meat intended for Durham is slaughtered and inspected in the Government controlled premises in the adjoining Urban District of Brandon and Byshottles.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Under the provisions of the above Regulations, 4 notifications of slaughter were received. 4 pig carcasses and organs were inspected and passed as fit for human consumption.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following list shows the quantities of food that were found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption. Most of the losses were caused through delays experienced during transport. All food condemned was voluntarily surrendered. As much of the condemned food as was practicable was utilised for salvage or pig-feeding.

50 lbs. Raisins.
 43 Eggs.
 125 Oranges.
 50 lbs. Pearl Barley.
 48 lbs. Potatoes.
 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Cheese.
 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Biscuits.
 70 lbs. Dates.
 20 lbs. Oats.
 350 lbs. Mixed Toffees.
 60 bars Chocolate.
 12 galls. Ice Cream.
 30 lbs. Bacon.
 60 Pork Pies.
 136 tins Milk.
 76 tins Beans.
 16 tins Peas.
 643 pkts. Soup.
 3 tins Soup.
 1 pkt. Dried Egg.

162 lbs. Black Pudding.
 162 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Sausage.
 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Luncheon Sausage.
 631 tins Meat.
 288 tins Fish.
 1 tin Tomatoes.
 22 Bloaters.
 28 sts. Kippers.
 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ sts. Fish.
 151 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Cooked Beef.
 5126 Fish Cakes.
 18 jars Piccallili.
 9 jars Marmalade.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The work under this Act is performed by an Inspector of the County Council of Durham and during the past year the following samples were submitted by him to the Public Analyst for examination :—

Coffee	...	...	3	Beans with Pork and		
Lard	...	...	4	Tomato Sauce	...	1
Cocoa	...	...	2	Pork and Beans	...	1
Jam	...	...	7	Stewed Steak	...	1
Margarine	...	...	3	Cod Liver Oil	...	1
Tea	...	...	4	Camphorated Oil	...	1
Sugar	...	...	2	Black Pepper	...	1
Lemon Curd	...	...	1	Chopped Ham	...	1
Butter	...	...	4	Whole Dried Eggs	...	1
Baking Powder	...	...	2	Ox Tongue	...	1
Semolina	...	...	1	Pasteurised Milk	...	3
Pork Loaf	...	...	1	New Milk	...	10
						<hr/> 56 <hr/>

All the samples mentioned above were reported "Genuine."

SHOPS ACT, 1912-1934.

108 visits were paid to shops in order to ascertain if the provisions of the Shops Acts were being complied with. The following sanitary defects were found and subsequently remedied by the shop-keepers concerned :—

Choked Drains	...	...	...	...	9
Offensive accumulation	...	...	...	...	2
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	3
To cleanse walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	2

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Under Section 21, Durham Corporation Act, 1933, in January, Corporation executed work in default.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' DEPARTMENT.

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	161
Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	683
Number of houses re-inspected	...	...	...	...	361
Number of visits under Factories Act	...	...	...	...	6
Number of visits to food shops and food premises	...	...	...	...	184
Number of visits under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	115
Number of visits in connection with defective or new drainage	...	...	...	...	144
Number of times smoke and water tests applied to house drains	...	...	...	...	31
Number of Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	152
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	3
Number of visits to cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	53
Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	84
Number of articles of bedding, clothing, etc. disinfected	...	...	...	...	1070
Number of library books disinfected	...	...	...	...	21
Number of visits to verminous houses	...	...	...	...	54
Number of verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	59
Number of visits made in connection with rodent infestation	...	...	...	...	668
Number of visits made in connection with billeting of evacuees	...	...	...	...	2083
Number of interviews with owners, contractors, complainants, etc.	...	...	...	...	382
Number of visits to caravans	...	...	...	...	1
Number of inspections of rivers and streams	...	...	...	...	15
Number of inspections of common yards and passages	...	...	...	...	8
Number of inspections of public sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	26
Number of visits in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	635
Number of miscellaneous sanitary inspections	...	...	...	...	138